

C. appliance control means for storing programs associated with the performing of the first and second sets of appliance functions, the appliance control means

- i. performing the functions selected from the first set of pre-programmed appliance functions in response to signals from the control panel that correspond to the activation of the knobs and buttons, and
- ii. performing the functions selected from the second set of pre-programmed appliance functions in response to the data signals provided by the controller.

35. The control system of claim 34 wherein the appliance control means includes a memory for storing the programs and associated information, the memory including a first area for storing the programs and information associated with the pre-programmed first set of appliance functions and a second area accessible by said controller for storing the programs and information associated with the pre-programmed second set of appliance functions, the second area further retaining data provided by the controller.

36. The control system of claim 34 wherein
the appliance control means further includes transmitting means for transmitting status information associated with the current operating status of the appliance, the transmitting means transmitting the status information to the controller, and
the controller includes receiving means for receiving the status information and a display for displaying certain or all of the status information.

37. The control system of claim 34, wherein the appliance control means includes a first clock, and the controller includes a second clock, the controller providing information from the second clock to update the first clock.

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38. The control system of claim 34, wherein the controller includes a remote control device and the appliance control means includes a receiving means for receiving signals from the remote control.

39. The control system of claim 36 wherein the status information includes parameters identifying the progress of the function being performed by the appliance.

40. The control system of claim 36 wherein said status information includes diagnostic messages for the technical servicing of the appliance.

41. The control system of claim 34 wherein
the control panel provides information relating to the selected function from the first set of functions by the activating of the knob, buttons or both, and
the controller provides information relating to the selected function from the second set of functions by providing associated data signals.

42. A method of operating a household appliance, the method including the steps of:
A. activating knobs or buttons or both on an appliance control panel to select and control functions of a first set of pre-programmed appliance functions; and
B. providing data to a controller that communicates with the appliance to select and control functions of a second set of pre-programmed appliance functions that cannot be selected or controlled by activating the knobs or buttons or both of the control panel.

43. The method of claim 42 further including the steps of:
providing information relating to the selected function from the first set of functions by the activating of the knob, buttons or both, and
providing information relating to the selected function from the second set of functions by providing associated data signals.